



HOW THE SMOKE-FREE LAW AFFECTS YOU

As of December 8, 2005, the Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits smoking in all indoor public spaces and workplaces throughout the state.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why did the law change?**

The law was changed to protect employees and the public in Washington State from exposure to secondhand smoke. It amends the 1985 Clean Indoor Air Act to prohibit smoking in all public places and within twenty-five (25) feet or less of entrances, exits, opening windows and ventilation intakes.

- **What does the law require me to do?**

You are required to post "No Smoking" signs that are clearly visible at each entrance and in other prominent locations and notify employees and patrons that smoking is no longer permitted in your business.

- **What types of places are covered under the new law?**

All indoor public spaces and workplaces, including restaurants, bars, skating rinks, bowling alleys and casinos, are required to be smoke-free. Hotels and motels must ensure that at least 75% of the rooms are smoke-free.

- **Does the law apply to private clubs such as Yacht Clubs, Country Clubs and Fraternal Organizations?**

Yes. The law applies to private clubs that have employees, volunteers or that allow guests. These businesses are required to be smoke-free.

- **Is smoking allowed in outside seating areas?**

No. Smoking is prohibited in outdoor seating areas. While outdoor seating may be placed 25 feet from any door or window, it is still an area encompassed as a "place of employment" where employees are required to pass through during the course of employment, therefore smoking is prohibited in such areas.

- **Can I provide an employee smoking room?**

No. The law prohibits employers from providing employee smoking rooms.

- **Where can employees go to smoke?**

Employees can smoke outside, at least twenty-five feet (25) away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or openable windows.

- **What should I do if someone starts smoking in an area where smoking is prohibited?**

It is the responsibility of the business to inform the individual that he/she is in violation of the law. If the individual refuses to stop smoking or relocate to an outside area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet from away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or openable windows, contact your local law enforcement agency.

- **Where can I support employees or customers who want to quitting smoking?**

Contact the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line at 1-877-270-STOP (7867).

ENFORCEMENT QUESTIONS

Restaurants or bars: 253-798-6460

All other questions: 253-798-4762



Tacoma | Pierce County
Health Department
Healthier. Safer. Smarter.

**Please note that this summary is not intended to be comprehensive or to provide an authoritative legal interpretation. For more information please refer to the actual text of the law. To download a copy of the law visit the Health Department's website at: www.tpchd.org*